

Q1 2014 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST
WPGA-TV

CONSOLIDATION: Voters approved the consolidation of Macon and Bibb County governments beginning in 2014. The transition from two governments to the new consolidated one has not been without hitches, but the willingness of newly elected board members to work together has made it a smoother transition that anticipated.

HEALTH CARE: Many middle Georgians are uninformed about many health problems. Coliseum Health Systems, Dr. Johnny Gayton, local optometrist, Melody Faircloth of the health supplement store Willow Tree and others appear on Mix in the Morning regularly with health tips in many fields.

ECONOMY AND JOBS: The unemployment rate in middle Georgia does fluctuate, depending on the season, but during most times of the year, it is as high or higher than the state average. Regular reports on the unemployment issue and public service announcements help to keep the public informed of the trends.

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE: Robins Air Force Base is the largest single employer in middle Georgia, and is a vital player in the economy of the area. Constant confirmation of the community's support of the base help to keep the base open and flourishing. With periodical BRAC assessments, it's important that those in higher places know that the community appreciates the value of the base and supports it's efforts. Periodical releases from the office of information, 21st Century Partnerships and other base-related organizations and our own news department help this station keep the public updated

EDUCATON: This is not only a class-room issue, but one that encompasses education on issues that concern the community, information on programs that assist residents and progress made in consolidating educational institutions to reduce costs while adding availability.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Efforts continue to convince pet owners to have dogs and cats spayed or neutered to control the growing population. While this is next to impossible where animals are abandoned and left to roam freely, spaying and neutering will continue to downsize and control the pet population. Programs of free spaying and neutering is offered by several local businesses. The process for adopting pets is also covered.

Issue	Title	Description
CONSOLIDATION		

January 6, 2014. Dr Larry Schlesinger, an apparent winner of a Bibb County Commission seat in the September, 2013 after he was special election when an opponent filed an appeal of the election results, citing an incident in which some voters cast ballots in incorrect districts. Schlesinger is a former Macon city councilman running against two

others, including a fellow city councilman. Dr. Schlesinger stressed electing a candidate who has shown a willingness to work closely with other elected officials.

Recap: Dr. Schlesinger appeared for 30-minutes on Mix in the Morning.

Additionally, Dr. Schlesinger appeared on subsequent shows January 8, January 10, January 13, January 14. . The January 14 appearance was 3 hours, the others 30-minutes.

RECAP: Additional time on Mix in the Morning in January was 4 hours 30 minutes

January 8, 2014. Gail Daniels reported on Mix in the Morning today that early voting for the January 14th special election for the District 2 post on Macon-Bibb County Commission has slowed down a bit. Daniels says 35 votes were cast Tuesday and the board of elections office on Pio Nono Avenue. Cold temperatures, not a lack of interest in the race, may have kept some early voters at home. Henry Ficklin and Dr. Larry Schlesinger face each other in a special election after a judge threw out the results of a previous runoff between the two after neither gained a majority in a 3-man general election. Daniels says the 3-day total of early voters has reached 172.

Recap: story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am, for a total of five minutes

January 15, 2014. Gail Daniels told viewers and listeners this morning that Dr. Larry Schlesinger has won his special election against Henry Ficklin for the District 2 seat on the new Macon-Bibb County Commission. For the third time, Schlesinger was the top voter getter, leading the field of three candidates in the September election, then apparently beating Ficklin in a runoff. Ficklin appealed the results and a judge ordered the election thrown out and a special election held. Schlesinger beat Ficklin by a wider margin in the special election than in the runoff.

Recap. Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am, for a total of four minutes.

January 15, 2014. Macon-Bibb County sheriff David Davis appeared on Mix in the morning today to detail the transition into the new county-wide law enforcement agency, a consolidation of the Macon police department and the Bibb County sheriff's department brought on by the recent consolidation of city and county government as approved by voters in 2013. Davis was on the air from 8:30 to 9:00 am

RECAP: A total of 30 minutes

January 16, 2014. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that Henry Ficklin will not challenge the results of the recent special election with Larry Schlesinger. Ficklin, like Schlesinger a former Macon city councilman, conceded the race for District 2 on the new Macon-Bibb County commission. Schlesinger will be sworn in immediately, before the next scheduled commissioners meeting.

RECAP: story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

January 22, 2014. In one of its first official decisions, the newly-seated Macon-Bibb County commission voted unanimously at its Tuesday night meeting to condemn eleven parcels of property along Lever Acres Drive for road improvements. The dirt road is not currently maintained by the city-county government. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that the road off Ocmulgee East Boulevard can't handle emergency

vehicles, which has been an issue for years. When the road improvements are completed, water lines and fire protection will be added.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

March 6, 2014; Macon-Bibb County Commission member Elaine Lucas appeared as a guest on Mix in the Morning today to update viewers/listeners on the progress of the newly seated commission, including their agenda for selecting and appointing department heads. Lucas is a long-time Macon city council member, and an outspoken critic on most political issues.

Recap: Lucas was on the air for a total of thirty minutes.

March 18, 2014. Macon-Bibb County mayor Robert Reichert was on Mix in the Morning to discuss the progress being made in the first quarter of the first year of the newly seated commission. Reichert was mayor of Macon and defeated a field that included former mayor C. Jack Ellis and commission chair Sam Hart. Among the first items of business was to appoint department heads. Reichert said the commission also eliminated some departments by combining them with others.

Recap. Mayor Reichert was on the air from 8:00 to 8:20am (thirtyminutes)

HEALTH CARE

January 9, 2014. The Peyton Anderson Foundation had donated \$1.5 million to the Medical Center of Central Georgia cancer center, as Gail Daniels reported on Mix in the Morning today. The new cancer center is located in refurbished medical offices on first Street. Nancy White, director of oncology services for the Medical Center, said she hopes the new center will be operational by the end of the year.

[Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of three minutes](#)

January 9, 2014. Gail Daniels reports today that a boil water advisory was issued Wednesday for residents in Gray. City officials say as a precautionary health measure, if residents have been without water for the past 24 hours, they need to boil drinking water. The advisory was issued because of a water main break near Gray Elementary school. The school will reopen today, but superintendent William Matthews advises students to bring their own drinking water to school

[Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes](#)

January 14, 2014. A Bleckley County High School student has been diagnosed with bacterial meningitis, but school and health officials say the case does not endanger public health. On her Mix in the Morning news segment today, Gail Daniels quotes Dr. Lawton Davis, district health director for the South Central Health District who says the female student became ill over the Christmas holidays and has not returned to class. Bleckley County school officials contacted health authorities immediately last week after the girl's condition became known. Public health officials are monitoring the case.

[Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes](#)

January 29, 2014. Republican State Representative Allen Peake of Macon introduced a bill on Tuesday that would revive a research program allowing academic institutions to distribute cannabis oil to those suffering from specific medical conditions. According to Gail Daniels on Mix in the Morning, Peake's bill says the cannabis oil will be limited in scope, tightly restricted, well regulated and managed by doctors. The bill drew more than 80 sponsors in the House, although Peake said it will be a difficult road to get the bill passed and signed.

[Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes](#)

February 14, 2014. On her Mix in the Morning news today, Gail Daniels reports that another rural hospital in Georgia is closing. Daniels says Lower Oconee Community Hospital in the community of Glenwood has closed, citing financial problems. It is the fourth rural hospital in Georgia to close within the last two years. COE Karen O'Neal said the hospital is looking to restructure. She says some of the hospital's 100 employees have been laid off. Residents in the area who used the hospital will now travel to Vidalia, about 30 miles away, or to Dublin or Eastman, both of which are even further. Eight rural Georgia hospitals have closed since 2000.

[Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes](#)

February 27, 2014. [On the Mix in the Morning newscasts today](#), Ron Wildman reports that the Georgia House has approved a bill that would legalize medical cannabis. It passed via unanimous voice vote in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday night. The bill also addresses the problem of cultivation of marijuana. Twenty states allow medical marijuana but are not allowed to export it to other states. Under the bill, five Georgia universities could apply to grow and synthesize high-CBD liquid medical cannabis. The schools are Georgia Regents and the University of Georgia, plus Emory, Morehouse and Mercer. No school would be obligated to do medical marijuana work, but they would have the option. The bill was written by State Representative Allen Peake, a Macon Republican.

[Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of six minutes](#)

ECONOMY AND JOBS

January 13, 2014. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved companies to build a veterans training center. The board approved a design firm, a project manager and a construction company for the \$10 million Military and Academic Training Center, also called Gateway Center. Gail Daniels reports on Mix in the Morning that Parrish Construction of Perry was selected to build the 50,000 square foot facility on 40 acres on Wall Street, donated by the city of Warner Robins. Parramore & Quinn of Snellville was selected as the program manager and JMA Architecture of Perry was selected for the design. The legislature approved funding for the center, which will help reduce unemployment among veterans entering the civilian workforce. The center will help veterans and current military members find jobs, transfer academic

credits, enroll in colleges and technical schools. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September or October, Daniels says.

Recap: Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 9:30 am for a total of five minutes

January 15, 2014. According to a news story by Gail Daniels on today's Mix in the Morning, The Georgia Department of Labor's Eastman Career Center will help Eastman Healthcare Nursing Home by recruiting a number of full-time certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses. The CAN positions require a high school diploma or General Education Degree equivalent and a current Georgia CAN license. The LPN positions require an associate's degree and a current Georgia LPN license. Salaries will be competitive, and will be discussed during interviews. Daniels says interested nurses can find out more about the recruitment by contacting the Eastman Career Center at (478) 374-6994

January 31, 2014. The Georgia Department of Labor offices that have been closed because of the winter storm will reopen today. Gail Daniels relayed the information to citizens on her Mix in the Morning news segments today. The operating hours will vary according to conditions in each location. Most are opening at 8 and 9 am, but Daniels warns listeners/viewers to call ahead to be sure the office they plan to visit will be open. All centers will resume regular hours next Monday.

Recap: The story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

February 4, 2014. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that a sliced-pickle plant is coming to Bibb County. According to Pat Topping, senior vice president of the Macon Economic Development commission, Mr. Chips, Inc. makes and packages sliced pickles and relish mainly for institutional uses such as schools, fast food chains and salad makers. The company is buying the former Plastics building at 101 Lillian Drive as well as a site on Joe Tamplin Blvd where the cucumber pickles will be stored in tanks and cured. The company is expected to begin renovating the Lillian Drive building within the next few months. It wasn't announced how many jobs the new industry will add.

February 7, 2014. Not all news in the area of employment is good news. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that The Boeing Company is phasing out work on the CH-47 Chinook helicopters in Macon. That means about 100 people will lose their jobs. Boeing officials met with workers at a meeting Thursday afternoon to deliver the bad news. The Chinook work will be phased out by early 2016 in Macon. In September of last year, Boeing announced it was shutting down its C-17 Globemaster production line, which impacts about 300 of the Macon plant's 500 workers. The good news is, the shutdowns aren't happening right away. The C-17 work is expected to end by the third or fourth quarter of 2015. Some of the affected employees will have an opportunity to stay with the company by relocating to Charleston, S.C

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of six minutes

February 7, 2014. On Mix in the Morning, Gail Daniels reported that Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering company has announced it has completed its previously announced acquisition of Timco Aviation Services, Inc., which has a Macon facility. According to a news release

issued to the area media and to which Daniels referred in her story, the transaction creates one of the world's leading providers of aircraft maintenance, repair, overhaul services and aircraft interiors products and services. Timco overhauls and maintains every part of an airplane except for internal engine parts. Earlier this week, Stephen Adams, project manager for the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, said Timco in Macon had recently created 209 jobs which brings the total number of employees to 335..

Recap; Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of five minutes

February 19, 2014. Gail Daniels reported on Mix in the Morning that, in an effort to encourage new recruits, Warner Robins police chief Brett Evans would like to offer incentives as a way of enticing qualified candidates to join the department. During Tuesday's city council meeting, Evans mentioned offering a signing bonus, covering relocation expenses and giving a higher base pay for those with a college degree or military service. Several council members opposed the plan, and no vote was taken.

Recap: Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

March 28, 2014. Ron Wildman, reporting on Mix in the Morning, said today that unemployment figures from January to February dropped slightly in Bibb and Houston Counties, both by about three tenths of a percentage point. Bibb County's unemployment rate is now set at 7.5 percent, while in Houston County, it's 6.4 percent. Those finding jobs were more successful over the past year, with the unemployment rate dropping from last year's rate of over nine percent.

Recap: Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am on TV for a total of five minutes

RAFB:

January 8, 2014. On her Mix in the Morning news segments today, Gail Daniels reports that, beginning next Monday, the inbound lane of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard at Robins Air Force Base will close, and will remain closed until March 8th for resurfacing. The closure of the MLK, Jr. gate was delayed a week because some of the preliminary paving work on the road had not been completed. The outbound lane of the gate will remain open. The Georgia Air National Guard gate on the north end of the base will open from 6 to 8am for inbound and outbound traffic while the inbound lane of MLK is closed. The outbound lane of the Air National Guard gate will be for right turns only.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am, total of four minutes.

January 28, 2014. Robins Air Force Base will be closed today for non-mission-essential employees. The decision was made by Col. Chris Hill, installation commander because of possible hazardous driving conditions associated with a winter storm expected to hit the midstate Tuesday. Hill said the decision to close the base was a collaborative effort involving numerous installation agencies. Base personnel are asked to check the Robins Facebook page or call 478-222-0815 for updated information. The story was reported by Gail Daniels on Mix in the Morning.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of three minutes

January 31, 2014. The Houston Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be held today and tomorrow at the Robins Air Force Base museum of Aviation, Gail Daniels reports on Mix in the Morning. The fair will be held in the Century of Flight Hangar. Approximately 960 middle and high school students from Houston and Peach County public and private schools will compete. The fair is open to the public on February 4th from 9:00am to 6:30pm. Four individual grand prizes will be awarded, and winners will compete in the 66th Georgia Science Fair in Athens at UGA on March 28-29/
Recap. Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

March 6, 2014. On Mix in the Morning, Ron Wildman reports that, according to a Macon Telegraph story, Robins Air Force Base is badly trailing the Air Force's two other maintenance depots in on-time delivery. The paper asked for on-time delivery rates for all three maintenance depots from Tinker AFB. Each of the three maintenance depots, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex at Tinker and Ogden Air Logistics Complex at Hill Air Force Base in Utah. At Tinker, the on-time delivery rate was 100 percent, Ogden had 91, while at Robins, the rate was only 48 percent. The figures are based on the first three months of the fiscal year, which began last October first. Robins officials say some of the blame for the low completion rate is attributed to the loss of experienced workers through the base's early retirement incentive.
Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

EDUCATION:

January 2, 2014. Gail Daniels reports today on Mix in the Morning that AT&T will partner with the future Military and Academic Training Center in Warner Robins. The center, also known as Gateway Center, will provide job training and job assistance for veterans and active military members. According to Central Georgia Technical College, AT&T has set a goal of hiring 10,000 veterans over the next five years. The technical college system of Georgia is partnering with the university system of Georgia to offer education, workplace training and job placement.
Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am for a total of five minutes

January 8, 2014. According to a story aired by Gail Daniels today on Mix in the Morning, the Bibb County School District will host a community forum on Thursday at 6PM at Central High School to allow Bibb County Board of Education members and representatives from the Georgia School Boards Association to hear from community members about what they are looking for in Bibb County's next school superintendent. The public is encouraged to attend, and more information can be obtained by calling 478-765-8711.

Recap; Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes.

January 14, 2014. Today on Mix in the Morning, Gail Daniels reported that the Bibb County School District's Parent Academy will begin offering courses and one-day workshops on topics such as college and financial aid planning, standardized testing strategies, homework tips and other subjects. The courses will begin Tuesday January 21 and are offered through the Parent Academy. Materials are provided at no cost to

participants. Unless otherwise noted on the course list, all classes will be held at the Welcome Center or Parent-Teacher Resource Center. For more information on the academy, call 478-779-3717, or go to www.bibb.k12.ga.us.

Recap: Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes.

January 23, 2014. Gail Daniels reported on Mix in the Morning today that Houston County school officials met with parents yesterday to discuss reorganizing of elementary schools. About 75 kids will be affected by the proposed change. Currently Russell Elementary is at full capacity and to alleviate overcrowding the plan calls for some students in third and fourth grade move to Pearl Stephens and some students in pre-K and second grade will move to C.B. Watson Elementary. The board is scheduled to vote on the new attendance zone map in February.

Recap; Story ran at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes.

February 13, 2014. On Mix in the Morning today, Gail Daniels told viewers/listeners that the Bibb County School District is participating in a K-12 English/Language/Arts-Reading Textbook adoption. The materials selected will be used for the next six years. Parents are encouraged to visit their children's school or The Welcome Center on Riverside Drive to review the textbooks. Parents will be able to review books until February 21st, and will be able to give feedback through an online survey at the schools and the Welcome Center.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of four minutes

February 28, 2014. Ron Wildman, reporting on Mix in the Morning today, said that, according to an audit of the Bibb County school system, former superintendent Romain Dallemand repeatedly violated school board policy by ordering more than \$26 million in technology equipment and services without required approval. The audit says that Dallemand authorized, directed and coerced staff to make transactions that were in violation of board policies for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2013. The school board first renewed, then bought out Dallemand's contract

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am, total of five minutes

ANIMAL CONTROL

January 29, 2014. A woman accused of breaking into the All About Animals rescue shelter in October was indicted on charges of theft and criminal trespass. Gail Daniels reported on Mix in the Morning that 36-year old Chrystal Gale Fessler is accused of breaking into the shelter October 16, 2013 and releasing the dogs from their pens. A dogfight ensued and three dogs were killed. Many others suffered serious injury. Fessler said she released the animals so they could go free and live. Fessler was arrested in November and was additionally charged with animal cruelty. Tuesday's indictment filed in Bibb County Superior Court does not include the charge. Fessler is currently being held at the Bibb County jail.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of four minutes

January 31, 2014. Macon- Bibb County Animal Welfare is under quarantine once again. On Tuesday, January 28, 2013, a 72-hour parvo watch was called for in the puppy adoption area of the facility after a parvo test Saturday came back positive. Animal Welfare is now in a 14-day quarantine observation period. The dog adoption and processing areas of the shelter are closed to the public during this quarantine period. Gail Daniels reports the story today on Mix in the Morning. During the quarantine period, no animals will be accepted and only animals on the long run area will be available for adoption. The state inspector plans to visit the shelter Friday or Monday as standard policy.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 for a total of five minutes.

February 13, 2014. Macon-Bibb Animal Welfare will reopen Valentine's Day after a 14-day quarantine for parvo outbreak. The outbreak required 10 puppies to be euthanized in January. Parvo is highly contagious and lethal to young dogs, causing diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy and fever. The incubation period for parvo is two weeks. Previous outbreaks of parvo led to quarantines and euthanizing puppies at the shelter in 2009, 2011, twice in 2012 and in the summer of 2013.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30am for a total of three minutes

February 26, 2014. Ron Wildman reports today in Mix in the Morning that Macon-Bibb County commissioners will vote on a revised contract for the new Macon-bibb animal shelter at a full commission meeting on March 4. The Public Safety Committee approved the revised contract with International city builders of Warner Robins on Tuesday. The firm's construction contract originally came in at \$2.6 million. When design and other costs are added, that will put the total shelter cost well above the \$3 million allocated for the project. Wildman says various items have been cut out of the project to cut costs, bringing the final cost to \$2 million. The shelter will be built at 4280 Fulton Mill Road.

Recap: Story aired at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 and 8:30 am for a total of eight minutes